FTA news

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

Vol. V, No. 14 | Sept. 1, 1945 | Price 5 Cents

FIGHTING FOR A PEOPLE'S PEACE

ON LABOR DAY, 1945, America stands at the crossroads. Will our peacetime path lead to prosperity and full employment, with equal opportunity for all? Or are we heading toward unemployment, breadlines and chaos?

The answer lies with us who will suffer the most from another depression. Only the power and determination of organized labor can lead our country onto the path of prosperity.

Most food and tobacco workers do not face cutbacks and layoffs now. But if our brothers in the shipyards and mines, in the steel, auto and machine plants are thrown into the streets, how long can we hold on to OUR wages and OUR jobs?

Ten million workers face unemployment in the next few months. We will be caught in the clutches of the greatest depression in history, UNLESS WE, THE PEOPLE, FIGHT NOW for:

- **Adequate Unemployment Insurance to prevent starvation;**
- **A 65c Minimum Wage to increase purchasing power;**
- **Jobs for All, guaranteed by the government;**
- **Wage Increases to make up for loss of overtime pay;**
- **Fuller Social Security for health protection and old age benefits;**
- **A Permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission to protect every worker, regardless of race, color, creed or national origin;**
- **Equal Pay for Women in industry;**
- **Liberalization of the GI Bill of Rights.**

This is the program on which Congress must act immediately. It is the CIO's program for a people's peace.

The war is over—but we must now fight for peace with the same energy and devotion with which we fought for victory.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FTA Launches Drive To Organize 60,000 Calif. Cannery Workers

San Francisco, Calif.—Some 60,000 workers in northern California fruit and vegetable canneries will be given an opportunity to choose their own union affiliation for the first time in their history, if the NLRB approves FTA's petition for an industry-wide collective bargaining election this season. A hearing on the petition was sent for Aug. 30.

FTA has petitioned for an industry-wide bargaining election in more than 60 canneries in the California Processors and Growers Assn., and for individual elections in 55 independent canneries. (Results of the NLRB hearing on the petition were not available as the News went to press.)

Several thousand cards signed by northern California cannery workers in the heart of the nation's canning center were ready for filing when the majority of the cannery workers want to join FTA and want an election to democratically choose their own union.

FTA filed the petition for an NLRB election in canneries belonging to the California Processors and Growers Assn., the employer group that originally handed the workers over to the AFL in a backdoor contract signed in 1937, at a time when the majority of the workers were in the CIO.

As FTA entered the picture in July, the cannery workers were caught in the middle of an inter-AFL fight over who was to control them. Until now members of AFL Federal Labor Unions, the AFL recently decided to turn the cannery workers over to the Teamsters Union. The AFL Seafarers Union also intervened with resulting strikes in Sacramento Valley canneries.

FTA is conducting its organizing campaign on the basis of "no interruption of production," President Donald Henderson, co-chairman of the drive, declared.

FTA victory will guarantee cannery workers organization on a democratic industrial basis with autonomy and authority over their own local affairs, something they have never had under the AFL.

In Sacramento, Teamster goons were attempting to intimidate cannery workers from going CIO and forced checkoffs in violation of WLB orders for voluntary checkoff, and were making workers sign pledges of no union activity before getting work.

GOING CIO

Meanwhile, independent Sacramento cannery workers voted on Aug. 17 by a 9 to 1 ratio to join FTA, and they were granted an FTA charter. Approximately 6,000 members are in the local during peak period. Workers at Libby's were likewise responding with a mass FTA signup.

In the Modesto area, 125 Oakdale cannery workers voted to join FTA drive. One hundred percent signups were reported at Stanislaus, Fotill, Mor-pak, Riverbank and Escalon canneries. Here, as elsewhere, contract violations by the AFL, except for checkoff, were frequent, and wages were cut by abolition of piece work.

Some 500 workers signed CIO card at the Santa Cruz fruit packing plant at Oroville, and others at Libby's at Gridley, and Cal-pak and Harter Pack at Yuba City, where pro-FTA sentiment is strong.

Hundreds of other cannery workers were joining in the San Jose-Sunnyvale area and in Oakland and Hayward.

FTA PROGRAM

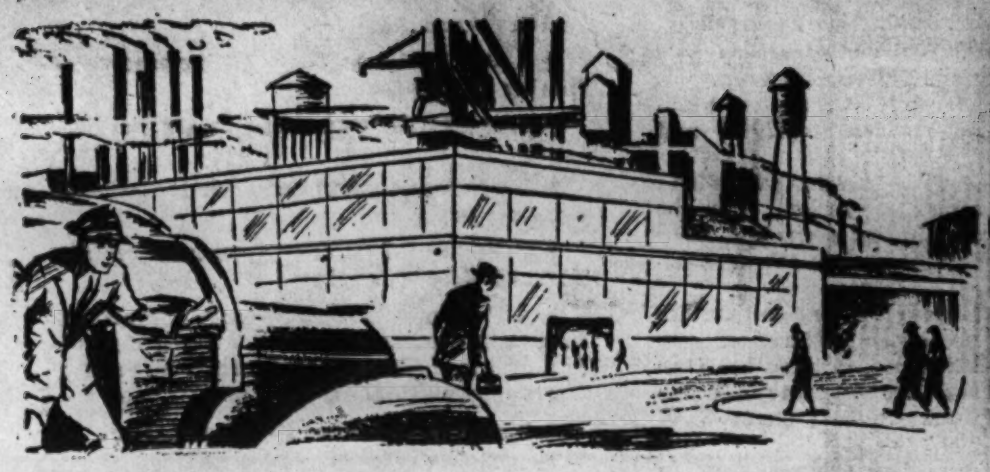
The FTA-CIO program is based on:

- The right of all cannery workers to legally and democratically choose their own union;
- One strong, democratic union of all cannery workers with independence in local affairs;
- Continued production;
- Full support by the national and California CIO;
- Real contracts with wage increases and improved seniority and overtime provisions;
- Lowered dues (the Teamsters Union collects $2 dues).

California CIO Council Secy. Mervyn Rathborne and FTA Pres. Henderson are in charge of the organizing campaign.

United Nations Victorious

Will It Be This—



—Or This?

FROM WASHINGTON

Raise Wages Now!

An Analysis of the New National Wage Policy

By the FTA Washington Office

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S executive order of August 18 is the beginning—though only a slight one—of an attempt to gear our economy to peace. It sets forth the principle which shall be "guiding" to all government agencies, that production must be speeded up; it reaffirms the need for price control; and it loosens up wage stabilization policies to some extent.

Although the wage policy still falls short of the CIO program for a 20% increase over the "Little Steel" formula, unions can and should take full advantage of the new rules and thus help maintain the purchasing power of the American people.

Here are the main points of the new wage policy:

Voluntary Wage Agreements

The lid is off on voluntary agreements as long as no application is made to increase the ceiling price or the cost to the government (on government contract work).

This means that all voluntary cases now pending before the WLB, and all future voluntary agreements can be put into effect immediately, and with full retroactive payments, without asking for WLB approval.

However, if the employer seeks price relief, you still have to file a Form 10, and the wage increase doesn't go into effect unless the case is cleared through OPA and OES, as before.

The policy on voluntary wage increases also applies to the very important issue of severance pay and to all other fringe issues, such as vacations, sick leaves, etc.

New Dispute Cases

The new order revokes both the "Little Steel" formula and the wage bracket system, and authorizes the WLB to grant increases to correct "maladjustments and inequalities" which would interfere with effective transition to peacetime economy.

There has been no attempt to define these terms or to work out a formula to take the place of the "Little Steel" and bracket formulas. So in preparing future cases, the Union should base demands on increases in living costs, rates in other plants, etc. Elimination of substandards remains a major basis for increases. It should be used in all low wage cases because of its bearing on our campaign for a national 65c minimum wage.

Pending Dispute Cases

Dispute cases which have not yet been voted on will be decided under the new rules. However, wage increases allowable in dispute cases under the new rules can be retroactive only to August 18, the date of the executive order.

In our pending cases, the Union's position is that all increases which were permissible under the old rules should be retroactive in accordance with the Board's past policy, and that the August 18 date should be used only for additional increases which are allowable under the new rules, but which couldn't have been granted before.

Public members of the National Board are taking the position that all pending appeals cases should be determined under the old policy. Labor members are fighting for the right to apply the new policy in all pending cases, including appeals cases. This and many other details will be clarified as the new policy is put into effect.

Wage cuts are still illegal—without WLB approval. As before, reclassification (to lower-rated jobs, another kind of pay cut) is permissible, unless prohibited by union contract.

Reopening of Contracts

Now is the time to take advantage of the contract clause we fought for so hard, giving us the right to reopen the wage question when the national policy was changed. **This is the change.** Negotiate now on the basis of FTA and CIO wage demands!

- A 20% increase to protect "take-home" pay against loss of overtime and night shift premiums, and to compensate for the increased cost of living.
- A 65c minimum to eliminate substandard wages.
- Adjustments to bring food, tobacco and agricultural rates more nearly in line with rates in other industries.
- Adequate severance pay, and other fringe provisions.
- Elimination of any other inequities and inequalities.

Importance of Voluntary Agreements:

It is obvious that it is now critically important to secure voluntary agreements rather than to go into a dispute case, and that price relief not become involved. The reasons for this are: (1) there is no limit in voluntary cases, but there is in dispute cases; (2) months of delay will be avoided; (3) if price relief is involved there is danger of losing wage increases by action of the Office of Economic Stabilization and that after a long delay; (4) speedy wage increases without price increases is the heart of our program.

The Job Ahead

V-J Statement of Policy adopted by the National Executive Officers and Vice-Presidents of the CIO, Aug. 16

THE day of final Victory has come. Our nation must now turn its full attention and devote its energies—so intensively geared for war—to peace.

The necessary and immediate cutback of war orders leaves a terrifying vacuum in its wake. It is considered that millions of workers will be immediately laid off; hours of work for those remaining employed will be drastically curtailed with resulting loss in weekly earnings; work in civilian production may frequently net lower earnings than the same employees have previously received in war work.

Many employers, determined to continue their vendetta against trade unions, will endeavor to provoke labor into strike action and thereby place at labor's doorstep the responsibility for the difficulties which may arise in the near future.

All this bodes ill for our reconversion and postwar economy unless with a singleness of purpose immediate and concrete steps are taken by labor, management and the government.

The foundation, upon which the American people desire to build their future, was laid by President Roosevelt in his historic Economic Bill of Rights. This reflects the aspiration of our people. Nothing less will suffice. It means jobs for all with steadily increasing wages, decent homes, health and education facilities for all, full opportunity to all businessmen to compete in a free market and a decent return to farmers.

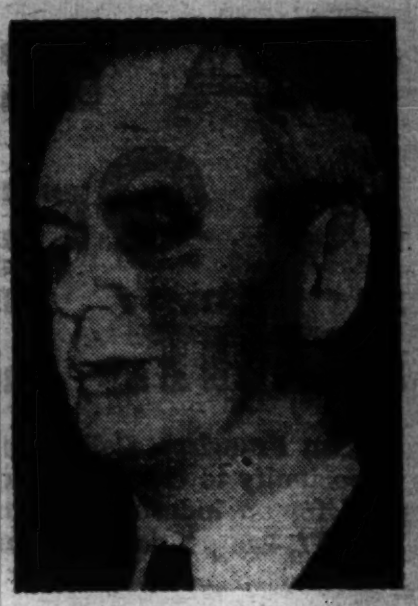
Action is imperative to attain these conditions. Expressions of pious hopes proved disastrously insufficent in 1929.

1 **Full production and full employment for reconversion and postwar rest primarily upon the purchasing power of the American people. This is now threatened through loss of weekly earnings, return to civilian production with lower rates of pay and unemployment. The President should by Executive Order direct an immediate revision of our national wage policy to provide for a substantial increase in basic wage rates for American workers. All wage cuts of any description or through whatever guise must be combatted and prevented. The minimum wage should be immediately raised to 65c per hour.**

2 **Effective price control must be continued to prevent inflation. Now, more than ever, it is essential that profiteering be curbed. Control of prices must not be weakened. Demagogic appeals by profiteers for elimination of controls should be exposed and their true design revealed as but attempts to gouge the American public. The extortionate profits which corporations have amassed during the war reflect the increasing labor efficiency and productivity resulting in decreased costs and demonstrate the absence of any justification for increases in the cost of living.**

3 **Congress should be quickly convened in order to enact legislation covering the following:**

- **Provision for additional federal payments to enable unemployment compensation payments to be increased to $25 per week for 26 weeks. Unemployment compensation should also be made available to federal employees, maritime workers, and others who are not now protected under existing law.**
- **The Pepper amendment of the Fair Labor Standards Act to provide for a minimum wage of 65c an hour with permission for industry committees to establish by specific industries a minimum wage of 75c per hour.**
- **Creating a permanent Fair Employment Practice Committee that will abolish in industry all discriminatory practices based on race, creed, color or nationality.**
- **The Wagner-Murray-Dingell Social Security amendments to improve old-age pensions, federalize unemployment compensation, and establish a basis for health insurance.**
- **The Murray-Patman full employment bill which recognizes the obligation of the government to assure full employment and full production.**
- **Amendments of the GI Bill of Rights to provide for increased mustering out pay, increased advances for education and business opportunities, and greater protection and facilities for the disabled veterans.**
- **Drastic revision of tax legislation to provide for relief to low income groups by way of increased exemptions for married couples and increased credits for dependents, elimination of taxes on low incomes, extension of the benefits of the carry-back to individuals similar to those now enjoyed by corporations, and special relief for small business to encourage the maximum initiative for the resumption of peacetime production.**



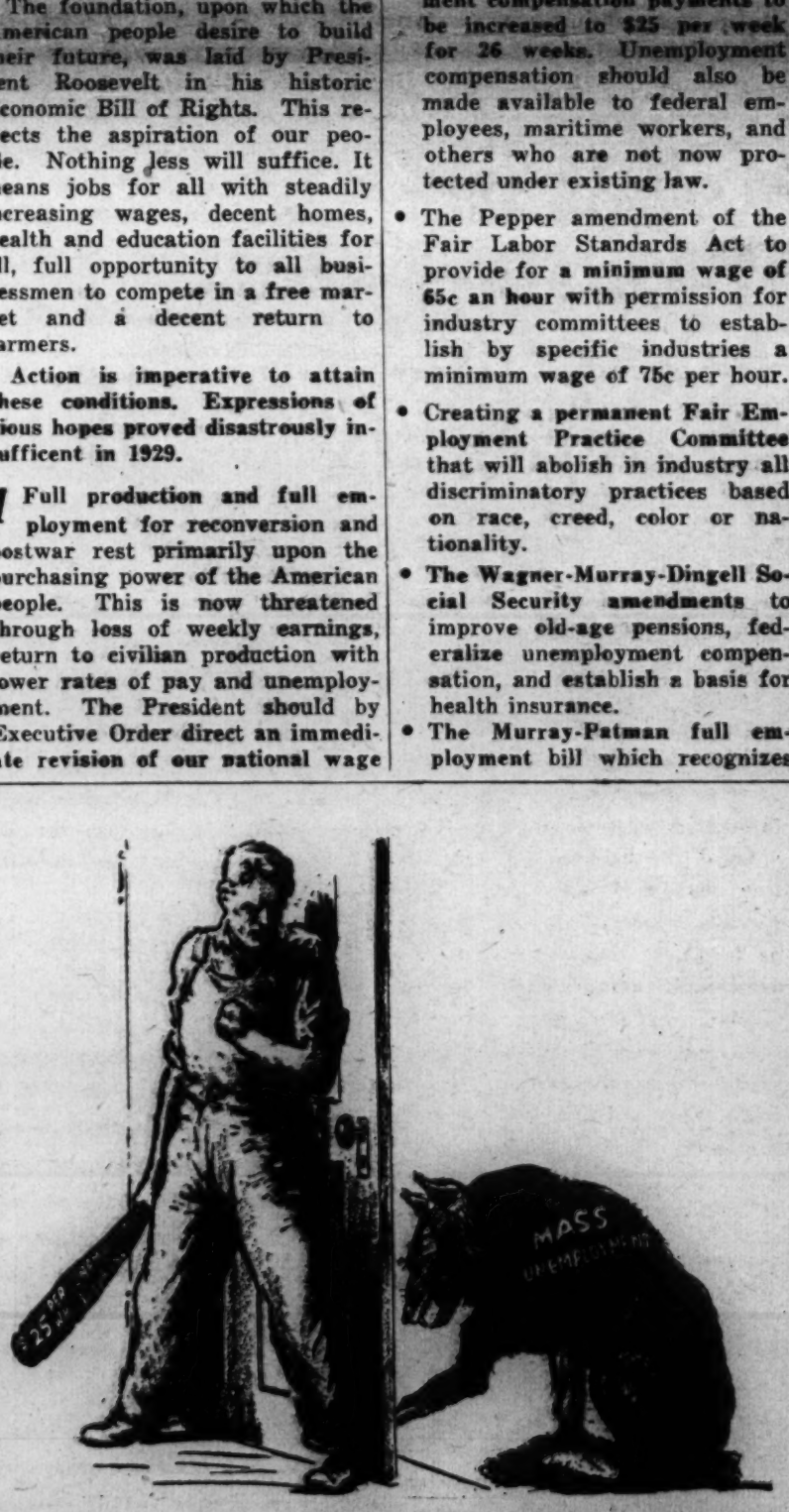
PHILIP MURRAY

4 **The objective of full production and full employment can only be achieved through the unified efforts of labor, management and government. Industrial strife should be avoided and certainly not provoked.**

But the problem of industrial disputes cannot be solved merely through the creation of machinery to handle such disputes. With the enactment and implementation of a program, designed to meet the needs of the people and assuring an expanding economy with full production and full employment, we can achieve industrial accord.

The CIO therefore offers these recommendations: The program herein described should be made the basis of immediate action by Congress and the President of the United States. On this basis, a labor-management conference can make a substantial contribution by dealing with problems of mutual concern and formulating additional suggested appropriate action to be taken either by labor and management or by government.

Finally, in order that during the immediate reconversion period there may be available to labor and management the necessary machinery to dispose of disputes unresolved through collective bargaining, the National War Labor Board should be temporarily continued.



Local 186 Visits a Senator: The CIO's 6-point legislative program for orderly reconversion was the order of business when a delegation from Local 186, in Philadelphia, visited Senator Francis J. Myers on Aug. 23. Shown above are (l. to r.): Josephine Pizzuto, Education Committee Chairman at American Tobacco; Charles Munn, Local 186 Fin. Secy.; Senator Myers; George Ardelean, Local 186 Business Agent; Mary Duggins, Chief Steward at Penn State Cigar; and William Gibbs, Chief Steward at Western Stevedoring. The delegation received the Senator's assurances that he would fight for the CIO program in Congress. On the previous night, Local 186 held an emergency membership meeting where a spirited campaign on the CIO program was launched. Petitions, demanding passage of the CIO legislative program, were distributed for circulation in the shops; postcards were mailed to Congressmen; and a resolution was sent to Pres Truman and leading members of Congress. An enlarged Political Action Committee was elected at the meeting.

We Need Jobs For All, CIO Tells Congress

Washington, D. C.—People want jobs, not excuses, Congress was told on Aug. 22, when CIO President Philip Murray called for enactment of the Wagner-Murray Full Employment Bill (S. 380) before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee.

Seated before Sen. Robert F. Wagner, committee chairman, Murray drew a packed audience that listened attentively as he warned that "if private enterprise fails to give workers jobs at good wages, turning out things we all need, the people will recognize the failure of private capitalism and vigorously call for government operation."

Murray spoke with quiet emphasis, seriously, and though he found some faults with the full employment measure, he insisted that its passage now would bring the people to recognize that Congress "was trying to help us all pass over this bridge to tomorrow."

SECOND PEARL HARBOR

Failure to pass it, he said, "will bring stronger questions from the people." He charged it was a disgrace "that this measure and a score of similar imperative measures were not enacted a year ago. Some very important people were asleep at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941; there is even greater condemnation for having been asleep at this second, economic Pearl Harbor."

Turning to the opponents of the bill, Murray said the "voices being raised against this bill "ought to be identified to see who they are and what their motive is.

"Back in the summer of 1940," he recalled, "the big industrialists were unwilling to take orders for production of war goods unless they received certain unreasonable assurances. When new plants had to be built to increase output they refused to move until the national government guaranteed them that the cost of such plants would be amortized in 5 years. This has meant that the products turned out from these plants have been priced at least 20% higher than they should have been. In consequence, these plants have been paid for by the people, but are privately owned by the corporations."

ONLY WAGES CONTROLLED

The CIO chief recalled that of Roosevelt's 7 point economic stabilization program, only the wage control measure was really operated and "the adverse economic consequences of selecting only wage control for real policing with almost no concern about profits and too little concern about prices, is apparent in the imbalance now existing between property ownership and workers' income."

Murray called Congress' action repealing the $25,000 limitation on personal salaries as "again giving concern only to those who have too much, ignoring the great mass of people who have too little." He sharply criticized Congress for failure to enact laws for unemployment compensation and transportation for war workers, for gutting the proposal for broad public works planning, for forgiving excess profits and assuring profit security to corporate interests while ignoring the needs of workers.

Swift Action Wins Wage Increase At Campbells

Camden, N. J.—A 3c per hour general increase, retroactive to March 1, 1945, and agreement to reopen wage negotiations within 30 days for further substantial increases, was won by Local 80 at the Campbell Soup Company plant here on Monday, Aug. 27. The victory came 9 hours after a spontaneous and complete work stoppage in the plant when the Company refused to enforce the wage provisions in its contract with Local 80.

The Company also conceded the Union's demand to shut the plant down, except for the maintenance crew, for 2½ hours on Aug. 28 in order to permit the workers to attend the big jobs rally in front of Camden's City Hall, sponsored by Camden's CIO, AFL and Railroad Brotherhoods. Monday will be counted as a day worked for purposes of computing overtime at the end of the week.

The stoppage, which involved 5,000 Campbell's workers, was brought about by the Company's refusal to stick to the 3c increase agreed upon in the contract signed on March 1. The War Labor Board had refused the increase in June on the grounds of wage stabilization policy.

COMPANY BACKS DOWN

When Pres. Truman's new wage policy was announced on Aug. 18, Local 80 advised the Company that it was now possible to put the 3c increase int effect. After a week's consideration, Company officials told the Union Committee on Aug. 27 that it would not put the increase through. Within an hour production stopped, and U. S. Conciliator Peter Manno was called in to settle the dispute.

The Local 80 Committee, headed by Bus. Agt. Anthony Valentino and Pres. Herbert Kling, was assisted by Reg. Dir. Lewis Bentzley and Reg. Rep. Jessica Rhine.

Quaker Local Demands 25c Raise, 6-Hour Day

By J. N. Billings, Reporter

Akron, Ohio—Demands for a 6-hour day, 36-hour week and 25c per hour wage increase took the spotlight in contract negotiations between Local 120 and the Quaker Oats Co.

Now that the war is over and our fighting men are coming home, they are going to rightfully expect and demand jobs. These millions have fought and many have given their lives so that freedom, democracy, and even industry, might survive. Now industry must furnish our fighting men a livlihood so that they, too, and their families, may survive.

Local 120 believes it is imperative that a 6-hour day be universally applied so that jobs will be furnished for the 7 million exservicemen, along with millions of civilian workers who have lost their war jobs from cutbacks. If we are to avoid another depression, we must furnish 60 million jobs.

LAND OF PLENTY

Labor is willing to sacrifice if necessary to insure every American family a job. But in this highly industralized land of ours, it is not necessary for anyone to sacrifice to have a decent living. All we need is for industry to be willing to shorten hours and keep wages at the same level. The Government should, if necessary, prevail upon industry to comply with these demands.

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FTA Testifies On Vital Bills For Jobs And Pay

Washington, D. C.—The voice of FTA speaking for the needs of the food, tobacco and agricultural workers of the country, is being heard in the halls of Congress this month.

On Aug. 29, FTA presented testimony before the Senate Ways and Means Committee in support of the Kilgore Unemployment Insurance Bill (S. 1274). This bill provides jobless pay of $25 per week for 26 weeks for all states, and it covers packingshed workers, who do not now receive unemployment insurance in every state.

Hearings on the Pepper-Hook 65c Minimum Bill (S. 1349) have been tentatively set for Sept. 25. FTA will testify in favor of this bill, which amends the Wage and Hour Act to raise the legal national minimum wage from 40c to 65c per hour. The bill includes fish cannery workers under the Act for the first time. FTA is fighting, also, to include agricultural workers under the Wage and Hour Act.

FULL EMPLOYMENT

FTA will present written testimony for the Murray-Patman Full Employment Bill (S. 380) to the Senate Banking and Currency Committee and the House Committee on Expenditures and Executive Departments.

FTA's Washington office has called upon all local unions to visit, write and wire Congressmen to support these bills, as well as the other vital legislative issues in the CIO reconversion program.

—Flash—

Win At Campbell's Chicago Plant, Too

Chicago, Ill.—As a result of the wage increase won at the Camden plant of the Campbell Soup Company on Aug. 27, Local 194, which had been in negotiations with the management in the Chicago plant, won similar increases the following day.

Workers in Chicago chalked up a victory for a 2c per hour general increase, retroactive to April 20, plus elimination of inequalities in pay in that plant, retroactive to the same date.

Like Local 80 in Camden, Local 194 immediately sent written notice to the Company to reopen wage negotiations within 30 days to discuss further increases.

Local 80 Wins Fight on Phony AFL Contract

Camden, N. J. — The Campbell Soup Company discovered recently, to nobody's surprise, that they could not sign a contract for seasonal workers with the AFL while Local 80 (FTA-CIO) has exclusive bargaining rights in the plant.

At a meeting with the U. S. Conciliation Service and representatives of the WLB, WPB and the Army on July 31, Local 80 convinced the Company to tear up their phony agreement with the AFL.

Several weeks previously, the Company had signed a contract with an AFL Meat Cutters and Butchers union representative to bring 300 Kentucky workers into Camden to work in the plant during the tomato season.

The AFL agreement provided that the 300 workers must belong and pay dues to the AFL while they worked at Campbells, despite the fact that Local 80 has sole collective bargaining rights for the workers in the plant.

When the Union committee protested to the management on July 26, the Company admitted that its agreement with the AFL was in violation of the National Labor Relations Act. They refused, however, to throw out the illegal contract.

APPEAL TO GOVT.

With the 300 Kentuckians due to arrive at the plant on Aug. 1, Local 80 appealed to several government agencies to prevent fulfillment of the AFL contract. In leaflets explaining the situation to the workers in the plant, Local 80 called upon all employees to stay on the job, turning out the food production so vitally needed by the armed forces and civilians alike.

It took an all-day, last-minute hearing on July 31, however, to convince the Company to break the AFL contract. Present at the hearing were Conciliation Commissioner Samuel Spencer; Donald A. Crawford of the Regional War Labor Board; Henry I. Adams of the War Production Board; and Captain Palmer of the U. S. Army.

Shorty is Back on the Job Again

By Jack Sparks, Int. Org.

Oskaloosa, Iowa—It was a good day for Local 155 when Shorty and Myrtle Nicholson came back to Oskaloosa, but they had a fight on their hands, too. The Nicholsons were active in the affairs of the Local all during the organization at the Marshall Canning Company and held Union offices almost from the start.

In 1943, Shorty left the plant to take other work, and Myrt followed at the end of the canning season. The officials of the Company, especially the plant manager, heaved a sigh of relief. They had gotten rid of the "trouble-makers." But their relief was short-lived.

The first part of July Shorty lost his job in a cutback and returned to Oskaloosa. The Company was crying for help, so our Chief Steward told the field foreman that Shorty was back and wanted to go to work. The foreman said okay.

But when Shorty showed up for work on the morning of the 18th, the big bad wolf (the plant manager) got hot and bothered and fired Shorty after one hour's work.

The Stewards' Committee took the case up immediately and a meeting was held with the Company. The big bad wolf took a very cocky attitude and flatly stated that he would not hire or work Shorty because he had just come back to make more "trouble" for the Company. Upon the Company's refusal to put the man back to work, the Union gave notice of filing charges on the case.

The outcome of the situation was that Mr. Wolf was forced by his superiors to go to the "trouble-maker's" home and tell him to come back to work with back pay for every hour he had lost.

WEDDING BELLS rang for Larry and Mary Larsen (above) on July 16 in Charleston, S. C., to the cheers of Local 15 members. Larry is an International Organizer in Charlotte, N. C., and Mary has been one of the most loyal and hard-working members of Local 15. She is on the Executive Board of the Tri-State Council of FTA and is also Treasurer of Local 15. Our members wish Mary the best of everything, and we're sorry to lose her here.

By Rebecca Stanfield, Reporter

Win $3,000 in Back Pay at Reid Murdock

By Andrew Kooyer, Pres., Local 74

Ellsworth, Mich. — Some $3,000 in back pay was awarded to the year-round workers at the Reid Murdock cannery here, as a result of a Form 10 submitted by Local 74 and the Company. The pay increase is for 5c an hour, retroactive to July 9, 1944. After three rejections by the WLB, an oral appeal to the Board by Int. Rep. Chapin K. Armstrong and Leo LaCroix of Local 74 finally won the case.

The Board has now granted an increase of 5c per hour to all employees of the plant. In addition, we are now enjoying 10-minute lunch periods each half day worked; 40 hours sick leave for year-round employees and 20 hours for seasonal workers who work less than 6 months; and free gloves, aprons, boots, caps and other equipment.

The members of Local 74's Negotiating Committee are: Leo LaCroix, Miller Young, William Petter and Andrew Kooyer. They were given splendid help by Int. Rep. Armstrong.

Citrus Workers Give Food for Russia

By Hazel Davidson, Reporter

Redlands, Calif.—A large box of assorted canned goods and other foodstuffs, donated by the members of the Citrus Workers Organizing Committee of the Redlands-Riverside area for Russian War Relief, was delivered to the Los Angeles office of that agency recently.

Int. Rep. Dave Forbes who delivered the food for CWOC reported that the great quantities of food and clothing arriving at the depot were being packed and shipped by volunteer unpaid workers.

CIO Bares Fascist Anti-Union Plot Urges Atty.-General to Prosecute

Fort Worth, Texas — The CIO has gone to bat to defeat a vicious fascist plot to destroy unions in Texas. In a petition before Attorney-General Grover Sellers on July 31, the CIO Oil Workers Union and the Texas State Industrial Union Council urged a full and public investigation and hearing on the activities of "Fight for Free Enterprise," a fascist clique.

The CIO petition exposed the deliberate conspiracy cooked up by the FFE to persecute the CIO through the newspapers, radio and by means of forged material and goons. The first victim lined up by the FFE was to be FTA Local 35 in the Texas Rio Grande Valley.

SECRET MEMO

CIO representatives named William Walker, chairman of Fight for Free Enterprise, with headquarters in San Antonio, as the sponsor of a secret memorandum sent to business men in the RIO Grande valley. The memorandum contained Walker's program for fighting union organization among agricultural and cannery workers in the Valley, and asked for funds for an anti-CIO crusade.

The memorandum was marked "confidential" and was unsigned. It was enclosed in an envelope with the address of Walker's organization and was accompanied by a begging letter signed by Walker.

PLOT REVEALED

This memorandum revealed how the CIO was to be accused of being "communistic and atheistic." A scheme was divulged to seek a writ of mandamus, under which scurrilous charges could be made against the CIO without fear of being prosecuted under the libel laws.

Publications of an inflammatory nature were to be circulated, falsely purporting to be issued by the CIO itself.

World War II veterans were to be recruited on the basis of toughness and "peculiar abilities" to take violent action against the CIO.

CIO members were to be trapped on the basis of understandings with certain police officers.

Newspapers which refused to join in the Fight for Free Enterprise campaign were to be disciplined by circulation and advertising boycotts.

In placing proof of their charges before Atty.-Gen. Sellers, CIO representatives asked him to investigate Fight for Free Enterprise, to revoke its charter and to prosecute Walker and his associates.

Get your copy of the OPA MEAT CEILING PRICE LIST at your OPA Local Board

Signing up new members was one way the FTA members at the American Tobacco Co. celebrated the recent NWLB back pay order. The award was retroactive to May, 1944, and ranged up to $325.00 per worker. By building up their membership now, FTA members of the American Tobacco hope to achieve real results in their negotiations for a new contract now under way. Members of the Organizing Committee are Eloise Robertson, Edith May, Louise Roberson, Peg Kendig, Wilbur Strickler, Louise Cahilly, Mildred Powell and Ann Tarsatana.

Full Speed Ahead In Fendrich Cigar Drive

By John Sloan, International Representative

Evansville, Ind.—Organization of the Fendrich Cigar workers has reached the size of a mass campaign in Evansville with the full cooperation of nearly every CIO local in the town. By Aug. 23, 219 workers have signed up at the the plant, and when the goal of 351 is reached, the Union will file for an NLRB election.

Members of other CIO unions have been passing out FTA application cards to their friends who work at Fendrichs, and the other food and tobacco plants in town. Some 18 members of UAW Local 492, out of work because of cutbacks, have formed a volunteer organizing committee to sign up Fendrich workers.

LOCAL 72 PITCHES IN

To climax the drive for 351 applications, Local 72 members plan to come in from Lima, Ohio to help out.

In a letter to Fendrich Cigar workers, Wayne Thurman, President of the local United Packinghouse Workers Union pointed out to the back pay award recently won by UPWA workers, and told Fendrich workers that they too could make gains by joining FTA.

CIO's Newest Radio Series
NBC Stations
LISTEN IN!
1:15 P. M., EWT
Starts Sun., July 8

FTA Halts Plan To Cut Wages In Citrus Belt

By John G. Lackner, Regional Director

Orlando, Fla. — Wage cut proposals from Florida citrus employers were defeated by FTA at the Florida USDA Wage Board Hearing held in Lakeland in July to determine 1945-46 wage regulations in Florida citrus groves.

Representing FTA Local 100 in the discussions was a committee composed of Coleman Bady, Treas.; Ausey Johnson and Sam Carter, Executive Board members; and Regional Director John Lackner.

Criticizing past practices of citrus grove employers, FTA recommended:

- Increased employment of discharged war veterans and former war plant workers in place of prisoner of war labor and imported foreign labor.
- Establishment of a labor-management-public board to handle grievances since the WLB no longer has jurisdiction over citrus industry disputes due to the passage of the Lea Rider.
- Seasonal wage-rate adjustment procedure to meet hardship conditions in the event of hurricane or drought conditions.
- Basic wage-rate increases due to the seasonal nature of the work and the rising cost of living.

SET RATES

A closed session of the Florida Wage Board recommended 1945-46 Florida citrus picking rates for Federal approval amounting to a $7.51 per day overall average wage for the citrus-picking workers. The rates recommended would be subject to upward revision in special cases of hardship adjustment.

Failing to take note of the seriously growing unemployment problem and of potential labor disputes, Kramer ruled FTA's first two proposals "out of order."

Jim Crow reared its ugly head at the hearing when an employer representative openly voiced his disapproval of the presence of Negro workers. He was quickly stopped when Board Chairman Kramer rose to point out that discrimination was not a Board policy. The hearing continued with the full participation of Negro FTA members.

Some 100 employers representing 85% of Florida's citrus tonnage were represented at the Wage Board hearing.

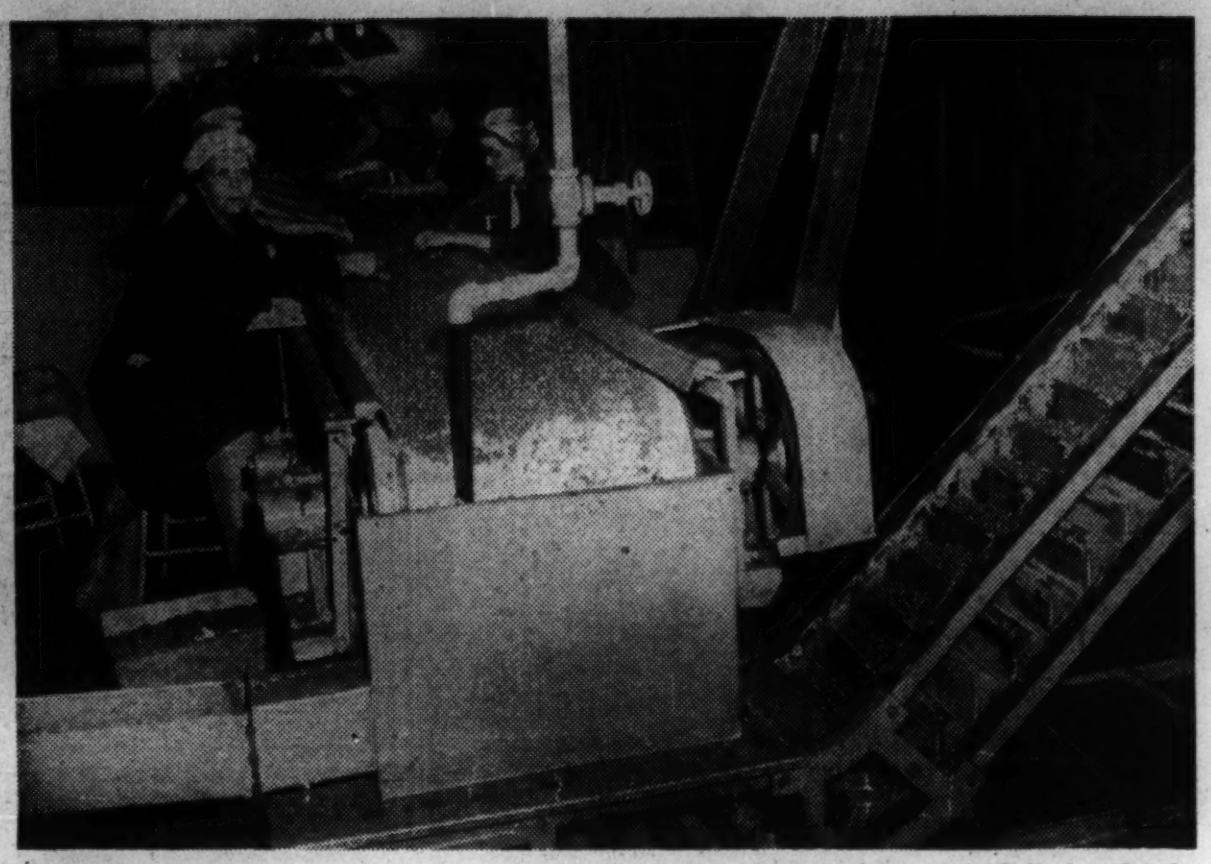
NLRB Stops Anti-Union Practices

Orlando, Fla.—A major breakthrough was scored by FTA in the fight to organize Florida's citrus workers when on August 4 the NLRB ordered the Consumers Lumber Co. to cease its anti-union activities and to bargain with FTA. For two and a half years, according to Reg. Dir. John Lackner, the Company employees in Apopka, Fla., members of Local 23, maintained their plant majority and their no-strike pledge in the face of the most bitter Company opposition. At one time the Ku Klux Klan on an anti-union binge was stopped in the streets by a group of American soldiers.

Hailing the NLRB decision, pending since January, 1944, Local 23 Pres. W. R. Fischer declared, "Now we can get underway with negotiations for a new contract with Consumers. They refused to negotiate a new contract in December, 1943 when our first one expired. That's when they set up the phony 'Workers Committee'. We figure that any wage increases we get ought to be retroactive to that date."

KKK'ERS NAMED

Named by the NLRB as correspondents in the Company's anti-union campaign were Arthur Karst, C. Roger Wells, and Thomas N. Kilgore, notorious throughout the state of Florida for their anti-labor and Ku Klux Klan affiliations. They were ordered by the NLRB to write to all Consumer employees stating that they would cease their intimidations and anti-union activities, and that they would no longer support the "Workers Committee", a company-union organized by the trio to beat FTA at Consumers.



A fifty percent increase in output over last year's pack of peas was chalked up by the members of Local 79 employed at the Michigan Frosted Foods plant as they brought a very successful pack to a close on July 25. Excellent co-operation from the employees and the purchase of some new equipment were the reasons the Company gave for its successful season in spite of adverse weather conditions. Two crews, day and night, kept the plant operating to capacity during the pack. This was made necessary due to the short time in which weather conditions allowed for the harvesting of the crops. Local 79 members were given full credit for the campaign's success. In the above picture, the workers are shown doing their stint for the pea pack.

By Beatrice M. Reid, Reporter

Contest Winners

FTA NEWS is proud to present the winners of the NEWS Letter-Writing Contest which ended July 31, 1945. Here are the three prize-winning letters:

VIOLA CASTAGNOLA, Acting Pres. of Local 207, won the novel "Deep River" by Henrietta Buckmaster for the following letter to U. S. Senator from New York, James M. Mead:

My dear Senator:

I am working for the Hills Bros. Co. in Brooklyn, N. Y., and our 50c per hour was not too bad during war work due to bonuses. Now that we have been in reconversion work since January, 1945, we don't work 6 days a week anymore, and 50c an hour does not keep one person living right. In my way of thinking, with food prices and clothing so high, we must have a 65c minimum.

I am at present running a large machine that makes boxes for dromedary dates. This machine is massive with no push buttons. It has a huge iron lever and I get greased up like a monkey. The men, though underpaid, get 75c per hour. I get 50c per hour.

I've been told that the Wages and Hours bill is to be considered for amendment. Please urge its amendment with the thought to safer, cleaner living through better wages. Also take into consideration the passage of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill.

I am also the President of the E. A. Cummings No. 819 Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion. We think that people should not sell apples or live in dirty, unsanitary homes because of low wages.

Don't forget that 50c per hour for a 40-hour week is only $20, and today $20 a week will not keep one person, let alone a family of more than one.

JANIE R. WILSON, Local 22 Shop Steward in the Stemmery of the R. J. Reynolds (Camels) cigarette plant, won "Freedom Road" by Howard Fast for her letter to U. S. Senator Clyde Hoey of North Carolina. She won first prize in a similar Letter-Writing Contest held by Local 22.

My dear Senator Hoey:

I am very interested in the continuation of price control and the OPA. There is a shortage of everything. Our servicemen come first and civilians are limited.

Today we are faced with a meat shortage. If price control is lifted or if prices are raised, the majority of our consumers will be living in poverty. Why? Because the meat packers will have the right to sell their meat at any price they desire. They are sure that they can sell it because all over the country people are crying for more meat. The meat packers will profit from the war while the majority of our population will be living in poverty.

The war in Europe is over, and industry has been cut. Men are losing their jobs. If they aren't completely jobless, their number of hours per week are being cut. With many of our boys returning to civilian life, there will be a job shortage. Why should we be expected to pay higher prices?

The North Carolinians are betting on you to put over the fight.

EDWARD THOMPSON, Local 80 News Reporter and Editor of the Local 80 Bulletin, won "People on Our Side" by Edgar Snow for his letter to Representative Charles A. Wolverton on funds for FEPC. Thompson is employed at the Campbell's Soup plant in Camden, N. J., as a pipefitter. He was very happy to receive a book written by Mr. Snow as his prize, as he heard him lecture on the Far East several years ago.

Dear Congressman Wolverton:

As a member of Local 80, FTA CIO, I urge you to fight and vote to restore the appropriations for a Fair Employment Practices Committee in the War Agencies Appropriations Bill when it comes before the House.

The excuse given by the House Appropriations Committee for reporting it without recommendation to the House is not a valid one. I feel that the appropriations for FEPC should be restored for a better democratic America, where the right to work and enjoy a better life could be had by all Americans, regardless of color, religion or nationality.

CORRECTION: There was a slight mixup in the pictures of the FTA Northeast Leadership Training School appearing in the July 15 issue of the News. The picture labelled Rosella Leininger was really Myrtle French of Local 115.

Local 349 Acts To Save Sharecroppers' Homes

By Zella Whitfield, Reporter

Harviell, Mo.—A strong Political Action Committee in Local 349 and the quick action of Int. Vice-Pres. Owen Whitfield saved the homes of the sharecroppers who live in the Delmo Housing Project in Wyatt from the clutches of the bosses.

The bosses were trying to buy up the homes from the Government, move out the poor people and rent them to workers at higher prices. Then the workers would have had to work at wages the bosses wanted to pay or move out.

However, Local 349, with the help of the St. Louis Committee for the Rehabilitation of Sharecroppers raised $2,700 as a down payment on the homes in one day. Now, the sharecroppers will be able to buy their own homes and earn decent wages instead of being slaves to the bosses.

CIO Maps Plans To Aid Arkansas Sharecroppers

Little Rock, Ark. — Relief from oppression and misery for the day laborers and sharecroppers of Arkansas was one step nearer fulfillment when the Arkansas Industrial Union Council, at its annual convention on August 18, elected FTA Sub-regional Director Harry Koger, Chairman of the Plantation Labor Research and Advisory Commitee.

Koger's committee aims to get the cooperation of progressive honest planters, progressive farmer groups, organized labor, churches and civic groups in the State. The Committee will study labor conditions on the large cotton plantations of Arkansas and will take action on cases of oppression and exploitation wherever it can.

"The time has come for us to forever free plantation labor of its shackles," said Koger in accepting the post.

Members of the Committee come from among the leaders of CIO affiliates in the state.

FTA Representatives met Soviet trade unionists at a luncheon given by the Philadelphia CIO on August 3. The Russian delegation, which toured the country at the invitation of the CIO, represented 27 million members of 191 unions in the USSR. Shown above, at the luncheon, are (left to right): Nikolai Gaisenok, Chairman of the Shipbuilding Industry Trade Union; Boris Gostov, Central Committee of the Automobile Industry Trade Union; Alexander Stepanov, head of the Wages Division of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions; Lewis Bentzley, FTA Regional Director; Jessica Rhine, FTA Regional Representative; Vassili Kuznetsov, Chairman of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions; and George Craig, CIO Regional Director.

The purpose of their visit, the Soviet delegates told the American unionists, was to learn about the trade unions in the U. S. and to tell us about the unions in their country. They told of the warm reception they received in every city and plant they visited and of the great interest shown by American workers about the workers of the Soviet Union. On August 14, as the Soviet visitors prepared to return home, CIO President Philip Murray announced that the CIO will send an official delegation to visit the Soviet Union "at a very early date." The CIO leader said that formation of an American-Soviet Trade Union committee is now under consideration.

Notes from LOCALS

New Officers

45 Richmond, Va.—Newly elected officers of Local 45 are: Charles McClaiborne, Pres.; Gladys Randolph, Vice - Pres.; Evetta Hamp, Secy.-Treas.; and Emma Howard, Rec. Secy.

Membership Drive

57 Richmond, Va.—Some 76 new members have been signed up in the two-month membership drive in Local 57 at the Southern Biscuit Co. In the lead for the $15 prize is Charles Brent with 27 members, Annabelle Bradley with 18 members and Jack Coffey with 12 members.

Henry Dillard of the Maintenance Dept. was recently elected President of the Local.

By Max Sussman, Bus. Agt.

Local 64 Has a Hero

64 San Diego, Calif.—Newly elected officers of Local 64 are: Gus Meza, Pres.; Alfred Smith, Vice-Pres.; Robert Galvan, Secy.-Treas.; Ann Taylor, Rec. Secy.; John Froelich, Sgt.-at-Arms; and Hortencia Lopez, Angelita Gonzalez and John Froelich, Trustees.

Maria Flores was recently informed that her son, Pvt. William J. Flores, was just awarded two distinguished unit citations. Flores' unit, the Bomber Barons, a B-24 Liberator group stationed in the Philippines, received the citation for recent strikes against the Carolinas and the 2500-mile bombing run from Juan to Balikpapan in Borneo. Sister Flores has been very active in the Local's activities for servicemen.

Fine Picnic

72 Findlay, Ohio — Local 72 members on the night force at the Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert Cigar plant had a fine time at a picnic held at Riverside Park on August 19. The picnic was well-attended and there were amusements and plenty of food for all.

By Arthelma Wilson, Reporter

Blast Bilbo

80 Camden, N. J. — Protesting the fascist and un-American ideas of Senator Bilbo in spreading race hate, Local 80 adopted a resolution at its last membership meeting calling for his impeachment.

"We of organized labor severely criticize and condemn this Senator and all others in high places of Government who show fascist leanings by word and deed," the resolution said.

Protest POW's

84 Indianapolis, Ind. — On August 1 the Acme-Evans Co. was supposed to bring some 40-odd German prisoners of war to work in the plant. However, Local 84 strongly protested and said that they would not accept POW's to work in the plant until the WLB rushed the new contract through. The management agreed to send a joint letter with the Union to the WLB asking the Board to speed up its decision on the contract. An answer is expected soon.

By Portens Boyd, Reporter

New Member Drive

125 St. Joseph, Mo.—Local 125's campaign for new members was launched at the regular membership meeting on August 1 with the announcement that prizes would be awarded to those signing up the most new members during August and September. First prize will be a $25 war bond; 2nd prize —$10 in cash; 3rd prize—$5 in cash.

Chief speakers at the meeting were Louis Jedlicka, FTA Regional Director; Wes Kopecky, Pres. Local 110; J. R. Wheeler and Charles Waltrip, Field Representatives for United Packinghouse Workers; Charles Ingersoll, Chief Steward Local 58 and Dale Geesman, Trustee and Chief Department Steward.

By Julia B. Hines, Secy.

New Officers

155 Oskaloosa, Iowa — Newly elected officers of Local 155 are: Arthur Leroy Nicholson, Pres.; Murril Christover, Vice-Pres.; Myrtle Nicholson, Rec. Secy.; and Irvin Nicholson, Field Steward.

Victory Celebration

297 Toledo, Ohio—Victory was celebrated in advance at the Woolson Spice Co. On August 10, as soon as the rumor of Japan's offer to surrender reached the Woolson management, a two-day holiday was declared in the plant with full pay for all employees who had reported in for work.

By Dan Smith, Reporter

Lauds Work Of Local 63 In War Loan

Philadelphia, Pa.—Praising the fine job done by Local 63 of Turrell, Ark., in the Seventh War Loan Drive, G. Warren Morgan, head of the CIO Staff of the War Finance Division, wrote Int. Pres. Donald Henderson commending Local 63 to him.

"There is so little we can say to express our feelings when we see concrete evidence of such patriotism on the part of fellow workers who no doubt must endure even greater privations in order to make their contribution to the war finance program," wrote Morgan. "It seems to me this should be an example, not only to the members of FTA, but to all members of the CIO and to all Americans who to a large degree are in so much better circumstances than our fellow workers in Arkansas. You may be proud to have these people as members of FTA."

In reporting the Local's progress in the bond drive to Morgan, Joseph Rodgers, Local 63 Treasurer, informed him that the Local had bought $175 worth of bonds and was planning to buy another $25 bond. The members of Local 63 are mainly sharecroppers.

Ask Election At Swift Oil

By O. E. McKaine, Int. Org.

Columbia, S. C.—A petition for an election at the Swift & Co. cotton seed and oil and fertilizer plants backed up by the signatures of over 90% of the workers, has been submitted to the NLRB. Located in Taylor, S. C., right outside the State capitol, these plants are the first in the area to be organized by FTA.

In season, there are about 85 workers employed, and an Organizing Committee has already been set up to swell the number organized to 400 by bringing in the employees at the Southern Cotton Oil plant in Columbia.

Aided by Int. Org. O. E. McKaine, the Organizing Committee pledged to make the plants 100% union. Active members of the Committee are: Preston Davis, a plant employee for over 35 years and chairman of the local Progressive Democratic Party; J. H. Benson, Secretary of the local branch of the NAACP and Sunday school superintendent; James Sims, Pres.; Willie Jefferson, Secy.; Ben Green and John Knox.

FTA Councils In Action

Ohio–Michigan

Toledo, Ohio—Sgt. George Whitaker, Local 55 member and veteran of 3 years in the armed forces, addressing the June meeting of the Ohio-Michigan Regional Council, warned that "after this war is over, things are going to be pretty tough, and then we will need our unions to protect the gains we have already made."

Taking his warning to heart, the delegates to the meeting set about formulating a program for the region to consolidate and strengthen all the FTA locals in Ohio and Michigan. The delegates endorsed the setting up of local union organizing committees to conduct surveys of unorganized plants and to help organize them. In a drive to get all plants under contract 100% organized, each local will award prizes to the members getting the most new members in the plant. Locals are to affiliate to their state CIO PAC's to strengthen labor's political unity.

Local Education Committees are to be set up with the help of a Regional Educational Director. Among the local educational activities which will be launched immediately are: pamphlets, forums, classes, guest speakers at membership meetings, and seeing that each member gets his copy of FTA NEWS.

Locals represented at the Ohio-Michigan Regional Council meeting were: 55, Middletown, Ohio; 58, Detroit, Mich.; 69 and 70, Lima, Ohio; 72, Findlay, Ohio; 120, Akron, Ohio; 179 and 297, Toledo, Ohio.

Regional Director Armando Valdes chaired the meeting.

Tri-State

Charleston, S. C. — Permanent committees to carry through the FTA program on political action, consolidation, organization, and education were set up at the July 14-15 meeting of the Tri-State Regional Council. Delegates attending the meeting represented FTA locals in North and South Carolina and Virginia.

"We must bear in mind that consolidation and organization is the job of the membership as well as the local leaders," Max Sussman said in reporting for the Organization Committee. The Committee report suggested plant and departmental competition in the locals, with prizes to be awarded for signing up new members. In Charlotte, N. C., and Richmond, Va., incentive plans are being worked out to get new members. More attractive meetings, too, would bring in new members and activize old ones.

Bea McCrea, reporting for the Education Committee, suggested classes in each local for shop stewards, and classes in reading and writing for the workers who never had the chance to learn. During the month of September, school will be held for the locals in the region at Winston-Salem.

The PAC report dealt with the increased importance of political action and the need to abolish the poll tax in the South to assure representation for all the people.

Guest speakers at the meeting were State Sen. O. T. Wallace of South Carolina, and E. L. Sandefur, CIO Regional Director.

California–Arizona

Salinas, Calif. — A four-month program for action based on consolidation of the locals, political action for adequate reconversion legislation, and extending organization, was hammered out and adopted at the California-Arizona Regional Conference held in July.

Guest speakers at the Conference were: Int. Secy.-Treas. Harold J. Lane; Mervyn Rathborne, Secy.-Treas. of the California CIO Council; and Sanford Goldner of the Council's Research Dept. Delegates to the Conference came from Locals 2, 3, 7, 64, 78 and CWOC.

Economic issues such as jobs and adequate take-home pay, must be fought for through our united political strength, Int. Secy.-Treas. Lane pointed out. The Political and Legislative Action Committee reported on the need for building PAC committees in the locals to concentrate on the passage of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell social security bill, Murray Full-Employment bill, 65c minimum wage, permanent FEPC, and abolition of the poll-tax. To strengthen PAC, the conference endorsed a drive for $1 for PAC from every member.

Reporting on the need for extending organization, the Committee on Organization won the approval of the delegates for a drive to extend the union in the small fruit packing-sheds in the upper San Joaquin Valley, Sacramento River Valley and Lake County district, as well as in the citrus industry.

Following the conference a leadership workshop was held for full-time representatives and local leaders, where methods of work with wartime government agencies was discussed.

Indiana–Illinois

Chicago, Ill.—Unlimited support and cooperation was pledged to the FTA California cannery drive by the Illinois-Indiana Regional Council conference held on August 5.

John Sloan, Acting Regional Director, in the absence of Reg. Dir. Jack Montgomery who is working on the California cannery drive, chaired the meeting. Locals represented were 84 and 92, Indianapolis, Ind.; 13, Chicago, Ill.; 11, Lockport, Ill.; 17 and 18, Rochelle and DeKalb, Ill.; 194, Chicago, Ill.

CIO Illinois Legislative Director, Bob Travis, said that the locals must take the lead in the fight for a people's program for reconversion. He urged the locals to send committees to see Congressmen at home on vacation on the issues of jobs and take-home pay.

Trade union education to develop strong and effective locals was the theme stressed by another guest speaker, Herman Schendel, former Education Director for a UAW local. In line with this, the delegates passed a resolution to carry on, on a local scale, the educational program already begun by the International through the FTA Leadership Training Schools.

To close the gap between members and non-members working in plants under contract, a resolution was passed urging local officers and shop stewards to map out drives in each plant to make them 100% organized. Union shop agreements should be demanded in all contracts in order to guarantee 100% organized plants. Each local was urged to set up Organizing Committees to assist in organizing the unorganized in their areas.

Council Meeting An Inspiration

By Hazel Davidson (CWOC)

Redlands, Calif.—My first experience as a delegate to the California-Arizona Regional Conference in July was one that I am sure will help to make me a better Shop Steward and will help bring better things to the Citrus Workers Organizing Committee.

Meeting the people behind the wheel of the CIO in California such as Luisa Moreno, Dixie Tiller, Sanford Goldner and Mervyn Rathborne, as well as the other delegates from the locals in the region, gave me a very good picture of the Union, and plenty of good ideas. One of the highlights of the Conference for me was the leadership workshop.

Sign Up as Fast As They're Hired

By Theodosia Simpson, Business Agent

Winston-Salem, N. C. — Armed to the teeth with application cards and pencils, the volunteer organizers of Local 22 signed up 470 seasonal workers at the R. J. Reynolds plant in three days. Mingling with the crowds of applicants for seasonal work at the plant, the organizers talked unionism and signed the workers into the union as fast as they were hired. The total signed up was 99% of those hired. Many of the new members volunteered to clean up on the job and get the rest of the seasonal workers in who had not already signed.

Similar success was achieved at the Piedmont Leaf house, where 422 seasonal workers signed up in two days. At the Winston Leaf Tobacco Company, the Company allowed a table to be placed in the plant where in one day 460 workers stepped up one by one as they were hired and signed up with the Union.

Now the volunteer organizing committee, inspired with its success among the seasonal workers, is concentrating on consolidating the year-round plants. A six-week competitive organizing drive to launch the consolidation campaigr was just completed in August. Winners of the contest are shown in the picture at the top of this page.

STAND UP FOR RIGHTS

Some 4,000 workers attended Local 22's mass meeting held at the Woodland Avenue School grounds on July 22. The meeting was held during the 15-day escape period, and volunteer organizers made it just that by signing up non-union members in order to help them "escape" from the clutches of the boss. There was plenty of pep and spirit, music by the American Legion band, and lots of Union songs were sung. Everyone agreed that they were "Gonna Roll FTA On."

Local 22's Food for Russia Committee did a splendid job during "Food for Russia Week" (July 23) when they visited churches, civic groups, and business men, collecting contributions for the drive.

"The Problems of Veterans" was the topic of the recent meeting of Local 22's Veterans Committee under the chairmanship of Clarence Conrad.

Winners in Local 22's Letter-Writing Contest were Janie R. Wilson, Martha Moses, James W. Parker and Jack Harris. Prizes were a year's subscription to the CIO News.

Winners in Local 22's Organizing Drive are (l. to r.): Willie Penn, second prize; Mary B. Ridley, second prize; Albert Ellison, first prize; and Pinkney Gwyn, first prize. Shown on the extreme right is Business Agent Theodosia Simpson congratulating the winners for signing up the most new members for the Union

Export Leaf Wins Raises

By Max Sussman, Bus. Agt.

Richmond, Va.—Wage increases retroactive to July 1 were recently awarded to 300 workers at the Export Leaf Tobacco Co., a union shop under contract to Local 45. While the increase ranges from 2c to 4c per hour, the bulk of the membership will receive 4c per hour increases.

At the Larus Stemmery unit of Local 45, negotiations are on for a new contract with wages retroactive to March 30. Since this is not a union shop, a fast job of consolidation has been put on by the Local Organizing Committee, with the result that 58 new members were signed up in 3 days. Outstanding jobs were done by Annie Rogers and Gladys Randolph.

Local 55 Elects Business Agent

By Jennie Stiver, Reporter

Middletown, Ohio—E. P. Murphy, former Financial Secretary of Local 55, was elected full-time Business Agent of the Local at a recent membership meeting.

At the same membership meeting, six new members were inducted into the Local. Sgt. George Whitaker, Local 55 member and veteran of 3 years in the armed forces was a welcome visitor. He spoke on the need for building the CIO now more than ever before.

Night shift workers at the P. Lorillard Co. each received $52 back pay as a result of a 4c night shift differential ordered by the WLB. A special membership meeting will be held once a month for the night shift workers, Bus. Agt. Murphy announced.

The Local learned with grief that Roy McQuitly was lost in action in the Pacific. A member of Local 55, Brother McQuitly leaves behind his wife and little daughter.

Local 55's annual picnic was held at the boathouse on Saturday, Aug. 25.

Win $120,000 Back Pay At American Tobacco

By Rebecca Stanfield, Reporter

Charleston, S. C. — Like a shot in the arm came the news of Local 15's victory when a telegram was received from the National War Labor Board on Aug. 10 stating disputed points in the contract with the American Tobacco Company were approved. The WLB ordered a 5c per hour increase for all workers covered by the contract, amounting to $120,000 in back pay.

Negotiations between the Union and the Company started last November. And now, in addition to granting the Union's demand for a 5c raise, the WLB has ordered dues checkoff; adjustment of mechanics' work load; relief operators; box edgers' piece rate changed to hourly pay; and a 6 months' reopening clause.

The WLB also ordered that the Union or the Company may reopen the question of wages in line with regional or national changes in the wage structure.

There are three top winners in the membership drive contest which closed Aug. 15. These three —Louise Simmons, Ludie Ackerman and Corinne Cokley—will receive a $25 War Bond each. Ten dollars each in war stamps go to Flossie Holmes and Lillie Martin, second prize winners; and $5 in war stamps to third prize winner Margaret Johnson.

In the first two days of the new membership drive, which began Aug. 16, 15 new members were signed up. Walter Glover, an able Shop Steward, brought in a new member's card when he signed a retirement card before leaving for New York to live there.

MASS MEETING

The constant campaign on proper grievance handling at every meeting, and through Local 15's weekly paper, the "Vanguard," by Business Agent Reuel Stanfield, is proving its worth, now that the Company has begun a campaign obviously aimed at Union members.

Previous to the announcement of V-J Day, rumors were spread that the Company would move the plant—the largest cigar-making plant in the country—to another state, preferably one in which there were anti-union laws. The wonderful sense of relief at the end of the war was deflated when the workers were threatened with dismissal for any and all reasons the Company chose.

A year or two ago, if any employee had been told to take his working papers whenever it suited the supervisor's whim, the worker would have meekly left. Today the story is different, for a Union member wants to know the whys and wherefores, and he usually gets a satisfactory answer when he refuses to leave the plant until his case has gone through the regular grievance channels.

Sign First Contract At Henry Clay-Bock Cigar

By Lucy Aiello, President, Local 56

Trenton, N. J.—August 3rd was a red letter day for Local 56 because it marked the signing of their first contract with the Henry Clay and Bock Cigar Co.

A Form 10 has been submitted to the WLB for increase of 7% for piecework cigar making machine operators. These and other increases filed for are to be retroactive to January 9. Vacations with pay will be granted on the basis of 3 days for 6 months of work, 1 week for 1 year, and 2 weeks for 5 years.

Two hours call-in pay, maintenance of membership, voluntary checkoff, bulletin boards in the plant, top seniority for shop stewards and an established grievance procedure, with the Company paying Shop Stewards for time spent on grievances, were other provisions in the contract.

Members of the Negotiating Committee are: Lucy Aiello, Pres.; Florence Mercantini, Vice-Pres.; Mary Fernandez, Rec. Secy.; Edna Wooley, Secy.-Treas.; Catherine Conway and Anna Miller, Trustees; Anna Pinchot and Catherine Berger, Shop Stewards; Betty Dzusiuta, Board Member.

DWG Stewards Study Up On Union-Building

By Sybil Neff, President, Local 72

Findlay, Ohio—How to close the gap and get every nonmember working at the Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert plant into the Union was the prize question to tackle at the first regular monthly meeting of Local 72's Shop Steward's Council. Everyone decided that the Shop Steward's Council was the key, and if you got an active and alert group of Shop Stewards in the plant, they could talk union to the workers.

The meeting was a very enthusiastic one and a committee was set up to see that all future meetings would be the same. In the future, something special will be planned for each meeting, a guest speaker or a song session, etc. Everyone will be asked to contribute to the kitty which will be used to finance the refreshments.

TO HELP WORK

All Shop Stewards Council meetings are going to be featured by educational discussion in order to help the Shop Stewards work better in the plant. This meeting discussed the settlement of grievances. Stewards were told to use the word WHY when talking to management in order to put him on the defensive. After the management's arguments are exhausted, then give the FACTS as you have found them. Make sure you have all the FACTS.

The Food For Russia Committee members at the recently organized Buckeye Cottonseed Oil plant in Charlotte, N. C., proudly display their contribution to help ease the plight of the war-torn Russian people. Committee members are (l. to r.) International Representative William DeBerry; little Dorothy Mae Kelly (who also did her share in the drive); Willie Mae Foster; Mattie Gates; Paul Alexander, Chairman of the Buckeye unit; Inez Kelly, Secy. of the unit and Dorothy Mae's mother; Int. Organizer Larry Larsen.

UNION MEN IN UNIFORM

We Need the Full Employment Bill, Say Spokesmen for Veteran Groups

By Travis K. Hedrick, Federated Press

Washington, D. C. — With a good deal of relish and some figurative rubbing of hands, the "business as usual" crowd here awaited the appearance of the spokesmen for the war veterans organizations before the Senate banking and currency committee. The occasion was the hearings on the Murray full employment bill Aug. 21.

Long before the hearing opened most seats were taken in the big chamber. Then Sen. Robert F. Wagner (D., N. Y.) chairman of the committee came in and soon had the proceedings under way.

But the expectant looks of the tory representatives soon faded. This was no field day against organized labor. Some of the witnesses even sounded a bit radical to the business listeners.

Here's part of what they heard:

For the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Legislative Rep. Omar B. Ketchum said: "To a very large extent, the welfare of our veterans is definitely tied in with the welfare of the nation as a whole. . . . It is encouraging to note that government, management, agriculture and labor are setting hearts and minds to the problems of a prosperous and happy postwar America. It is not enough to mouth high-sounding platitudes about full employment—it's time to do something about it."

REDUCE WORK WEEK?

Ketchum also alarmed the conservatives by suggesting that perhaps we should reduce the 40 hour week. "Why should we be wedded to a 48 hour week or a 44 hour, or even a 40 hour week? If the present 48 or 44 hours produces more than we can sell and too few jobs, is it unreasonable to suggest an even shorter schedule of work?"

The VFW spokesman let that sink in and then warned that unless there is full employment, the veterans will be penalized under existing employment rules because "service in the armed forces does not accumulate seniority and job protection, except where the serviceman has reemployment rights." Because of that he said the VFW "is advocating legislation to grant statutory seniority equivalent to the length of military or naval service to be used in obtaining employment for veterans where qualified for a job. This proposal does not advocate 'super-seniority' nor does it threaten union labor or seniority regulations."

Another sharp witness was Chairman Charles Guy Bolte of the American Veterans committee (not to be confused with AMVETS or American Veterans of World War II). Bolte lost his right leg with Gen. Montgomery's forces at El-Alamein in turning back Rommel's final thrust at Suez.

NEED JOBS FOR ALL

This veteran talked figures and facts . . . he upset some calculations by stating "no amount of preferential legislation will give jobs to veterans if factories are closed—and factories will close if people don't have the money to buy the goods the factories make."

That was a tough one for old Sen. Warren R. Austen (R., Vt.) but he swallowed it although he had argued with previous witnesses about the impossibility of full employment and indicated he wanted "no controls, no planning—just let business have its head."

Bolte admitted that veterans may have jobs if Congress enacts laws giving them preferential treatment, but explained that "somebody is going to be unemployed if there are less than 55 or 60 million jobs, or if there is much less than $175 billion of annual production." Unemployment, Bolte said, would mean lots of jobless veterans, a serious blow to our economic system, and a repetition of the depression of the early 30's that "may well drag the whole world into economic difficulties which will undermine all efforts to establish and maintain a lasting and just peace. The stakes are very high, therefore, in this battle for full employment."

DOMINIC CRISTINZIO, Ship's Cook 2/C, a charter member of Local 186 in Philadelphia, paid a visit to the Union while on leave recently. Formerly employed at Standard Products, Dominic was a treasurer of the Local for several years. He remembers the old days when the Union first began to organize in Philadelphia and told the News that Congressman Rankin, who is trying to pit the veterans against organized labor, is "all wet." Rankin is not trying to help the vets either, he said. "The servicemen who are in unions know what backing they receive from their unions, and they won't fall for Rankin's schemes." Brother Cristinzio has been in the Navy since '41 and served in the European theater, hitting the Normandy beach 13 days after D-Day. His daughter, Diana, was almost two years old when he saw her for the first time.

YOU SHOULD SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING BACK HOME! THE UNIONS HAVE PUSHED WAGES UP TO ZILCHY SCRILLION DOLLARS A WEEK!
I'VE JUST BEEN DISCHARGED... I'D LIKE A TRY AT ONE OF THOSE JOBS PAYING ZILCHY SCRILLION BUCKS. YOU WERE HOLLERIN' ABOUT 'EM— WHERE ARE THEY?
Standish
From Justice, N. Y.

Unions Fight For Job Protection For Vets

New York, N. Y.—Demands for an executive order guaranteeing job security for veterans poured into Pres. Truman's office from labor unions all over the nation, following a statement by Selective Service Director Lewis D. Hershey that job protection for veterans under the Selective Service Act would be ended with the official end of the war emergency.

Hershey's statement was denounced as "contrary to the law" by James McLeish, chairman of the CIO Electrical Workers Union Veterans Committee. "It was clearly the intent of Congress to protect inductees during the postwar period," McLeish said.

The unions pointed out that union contracts with employers protected job and seniority status for members in the service. These clauses guaranteed that members would receive their jobs upon their return with accrued seniority for the time in service and all benefits won by civilian workers during the war. However, they pointed out that veterans' reemployment guarantees must not be imperiled by the expiration of the Selective Service Act.

MAIL CALL

"THANKS for the VETERANS GUIDE BOOK" writes **Sgt. Donald Brace, Local 186 member, from "somewhere in the Pacific."** "It told me plenty about jobs after I get out of the Army; things I never knew. It also gives a better breakdown of the GI Bill of Rights than I ever got in the Army.

"I really enjoyed reading it, and also FTA NEWS.

"I think the men who get out of the Army soon will be helped plenty by the Veterans Administration. But we shouldn't forget the men who won't be out for a year or two. They will be the black sheep of civilian life unless the Vet Administration is kept going."

THE Story of Labor
THERE WERE WHITE SLAVES AS WELL AS BLACK IN EARLY AMERICA. ONLY THEY WERE CALLED "INDENTURED SERVANTS" AND THEIR TERM WAS FOR FIVE TO TEN YEARS INSTEAD OF LIFE. BUT IT WAS SLAVERY JUST THE SAME. IT TOOK A LONG TIME BEFORE WHITE "INDENTURES" WERE ABOLISHED. IT TOOK A LONGER TIME TO GET RID OF NEGRO SLAVERY. AND IT TOOK STILL LONGER TO FREE THE FACTORY WORKER, WHITE OR.... BLACK, FROM INTOLERABLE SWEATSHOP CONDITIONS.
JOE WORKER
WE FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM IN 1675 AND IN 1961; WE ARE STILL FIGHTING IN 1945.....
A LONDON WHARF IN 1674...
THEY SAY A MAN CAN MAKE A LIVING IN THE NEW WORLD, CAPTAIN. BUT HOW'LL WE GET THERE? WE'VE NO MONEY TO PAY FOR OUR PASSAGE!
YE DON'T HAVE TUH WORRY, MATEY. JES' SIGN THIS HERE INDENTURE, AN' IT'S HEY FER AMERICA AN' YER FORTUNE!
...BUT WHEN THEY LANDED IN VIRGINIA THEY FOUND THINGS DIFFERENT....
WHAT AM I OFFERED FOR THIS FINE FAMILY? SEVEN YEAR INDENTURE.
WHY BEN! WE'RE BEING SOLD JUST LIKE THAT POOR BLACK FELLOW!
NONSENSE, MY DEAR, WE'RE WHITE PEOPLE. HE'S ONLY A SLAVE!
HE WAS WRONG! WHITE AND BLACK WERE BOTH SLAVES....
FASTER, YE LAZY DOGS! TOBACCO SPOILS QUICK!
HEY! I'M NO SLAVE YOU CAN BEAT!
YES, YOU ARE! SON SO ARE WE ALL, UNTIL...
UNTIL NATHANIEL BACON CAME ALONG....
YOUR SUFFERINGS ARE INTOLERABLE. YOU MUST UNITE IF YOU WISH TO BE FREE!
I'M A FREE WORKER! I DON'T UNITE WITH NO INDENTS.
ME! I'LL JOIN WITH EVERY MAN FOR LIBERTY!
DOESN'T THAT MEAN NEGROES TOO, BEN?
WE'VE WON, MEN. FROM NOW ON, AMERICA WILL BE A LAND OF FREEDOM AND EQUALITY!
MEBBE SO, NATHANIEL. BUT I'M AFRAID IT WON'T HAPPEN SO FAST!
JOE WORKER WAS RIGHT... FOR WHEN BACON TOOK SICK, THE WHOLE MOVEMENT COLLAPSED.
I'M SORRY, MEN. YOU'LL HAVE TO GO ON WITHOUT ME!
WITHOUT YOU TO LEAD US, WE'RE LOST. THE GOVERNOR'S SOLDIERS ARE COMING BACK!
LOST, YES, FOR THE PRESENT. BUT SOME DAY, WHEN WE TRULY UNITE THINGS'LL BE DIFFERENT!
Jack Alderman
187
12